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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,623	02/06/2002	Akihiro Yamanaka	03500.016164	4489

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JUDY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2861

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/066,623

Applicant(s)

YAMANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Judy Nguyen

Art Unit

2861

AW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 49-51 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 and 52 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground that the two groups of claims are not so different as would require a burden on the Examiner. This is not found persuasive because applicant has presented no evidence of how the two groups are not so different while the examiner has already presented the reason why they are distinct in the restriction requirement.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 49-51 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 8.

Drawings

Figure 25 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not in a single paragraph. In addition, the recitation of "the ink therein is separated by gas from the filter" (page 105, lines 11-12) is not consistent with the description of the invention. It is suggested that the recitation of "from the filter" be replaced with --between the filter and the liquid chamber--. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "102f" (page 60, line 21) should be changed to --201f--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

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Claims 1-48 and 52 objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1: “a member for dividing a portion of the filter in contact with the downstream side into a gas holding area and a liquid holding area” (page 90, lines 10-12) should be changed to -- a member for dividing a contact portion downstream of the filter [in contact with the downstream side] into a gas holding area and a liquid holding area—because the filter is not being divided by any member.

Claim 2: “said **gas** holding are” (page 90, line 19) should be changed to –said **liquid** holding area— because the **liquid** should be held by liquid holding area, not gas holding area.

Claim 26: --downstream-- should be inserted after “portion” (page 96, line 22) because it is the portion downstream of the filter, as opposed to the filter itself, is being divided.

Claim 28: “second liquid chamber” (page 97, lines 9-10) should be changed to – gas holding area— to be consistent with the specification.

Claim 43: “**the** liquid supply means” (page 100, line 22) lacks proper antecedent basis. It should be changed to –a liquid supply means--.

Claim 52: "liquid holding are at **said downstream end**" (page 103, line 19) should be replaced with --second liquid chamber-- to be consistent with the specification, particularly when "**said downstream end**" has no antecedent basis.

Other claims are also objected to due to their dependencies on the objected claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-48 and 52 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the above formal matters.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Judy Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7062 or (571) 272-2258 after 02/10/04. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (703) 308-4896 or (571) 272-2149 after 02/11/04. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy Nguyen".

Judy Nguyen
Primary Examiner
February 5, 2004